

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-03 CIEP-03 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 ACDA-19 MMS-04 DRC-01 /208 W

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R 091145Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0458

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION NATO

CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USMISSION USUN

DIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PO XG

SUBJ: PORTUGAL AND THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

REF: LISBON 2609

1. DIARIO DE NOTICIAS (GOP IS MAJOR STOCKHOLDER AND NEWSPAPER STAYS CLOSE TO OFFICIAL GOP POLICY LINES) GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE SEPTEMBER 6 TO NEWS DISPATCH FROM PARIS REPORTING THAT COUNCIL OF EUROPE HAS INVITED PORTUGAL TO ATTEND ITS FORTHCOMING ASSEMBLY IN STRASBOURG. ARTICLE STATES THAT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY'S "BUREAU" HAS INVITED FOREIGN MINISTERS OF PORTUGAL AND GREECE "TO BE PRESENT" AT SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 1 MEETING.

2. NEWS ACCOUNTS RELATING TO PORTUGUESE ENTRY INTO COUNCIL OF EUROPE HAVE APPEARED FREQUENTLY IN LISBON PRESS OVER LAST SEVERAL WEEKS. REPORT FROM VIENNA (AUGUST 20) ON MEETING OF COUNCIL'S COMMITTEE ON EUROPEAN NON-MEMBER STATES SPECULATED THAT PORTUGAL'S FORMAL ADMITTANCE WILL OCCUR ONCE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS HAVE BEEN HELD. VISIT TO PORTUGAL BY COUNCIL FACT-FINDING DELEGATION (EARLY AUGUST) GAVE RISE TO WARM PRESS DESCRIPTIONS OF COUNCIL'S IMPORTANCE ("COUNCIL OF EUROPE - SENTINAL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS") AND HEADLINES TO EFFECT THAT PORTUGUESE ENTRY WAS IMMINENT. EVEN RESPECTED, SOBER WEEKLY EXPRESSO PRESENTED TOPIC MORE IN TERMS OF FAIT ACCOMPLI THAN IN TERMS OF FUTURE EVENT, STILL TO BE DECIDED.

3. COMMENT: WARM, EVEN EAGER PORTUGUESE RESPONSE TO COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S INTEREST IN INVITING PORTUGAL TO JOIN DEMONSTRATES, ONCE AGAIN, GOP'S INTEREST IN CULTIVATING EVIDENCE OF FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR NEW DEMOCRATIC REGIME (REFTEL). WHILE PRESS AND GOP OFFICIALS HAVE NOT HESITATED TO POINT OUT THAT PORTUGAL IS NOT NOW READY TO JOIN EUROPE ECONOMICALLY, AT SAME TIME THEY HAVE EMPHASIZED PORTUGAL'S STRENGTHENING POLITICAL LINKS TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. VISITING FIREMEN FROM COMMUNITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(AS PRIVATELY VACATIONING DUTCH PRIME MINISTER VAN UYL IN JULY AND SEMI-OFFICIAL AUGUST VISIT OF ITALIAN UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS CESARE BENSI) HAVE PROVIDED OPPORTUNE OCCASIONS FOR PRESS TO HIGHLIGHT WEST EUROPEAN INTEREST IN, AND SYMPATHY FOR, THE NEW PORTUGAL.
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Disposition Reason:
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